Connections
A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

MoDOT Observes Day of Remembrance

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

Today, MoDOT Day of Remembrance, we honor the memory of our co-workers who died in service to the State of Missouri in ceremonies statewide.

Friends of the fallen had gathered with employees at the memorial to honor those we have lost. Additional photos will soon be available on flickr (photos by Shaun Schmitz).

Records indicate that 131 people have died while working on the roadside, in shops and sheds or as a result of a crash on the way to or from a meeting. Unfortunately, the exact number of fallen colleagues is unknown. Reliable records are available only since 1946. We can safely assume that during the first years of our system-building efforts, others passed.

Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger led an afternoon ceremony at Central Office during which the names of all 131 known fallen workers were read aloud. Troopers from the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Troop F, presented the colors in respect of our long-standing partnership. Following a moment of silence, employees, led by Assistant Chief Engineer Kathy Harvey, renewed their commitment to safety by reciting the safety commitment.

Next week's issue of *Connections* will include stories about the ceremonies in each district. Of special interest is the dedication of a memorial sign on the section of Interstate 70 where Clifton Scott spent his last moments. Scott, our most recent fallen co-worker, was struck and killed last fall while assisting with a traffic crash.

Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger and Assistant Chief Kathy Harvey lead the Central Office observance of MoDOT's Day of Remembrance.

"It is important that we remember the sacrifice of both our fallen co-workers and their families," said Director Dave Nichols. "Our jobs involve safety risks. Pay a little more attention and keep in mind that making it safely home at the end of the workday is not guaranteed.

"Please – do whatever it takes to help our customers, our co-workers and ourselves make it home safely, so we don't have to add another name to a fallen worker memorial."

Our Fallen Coworkers

John P. Allman	7/28/1932	James Campbell	10/6/1965	Everett S. Young	8/19/1986
Milo E. Schooler	2/27/1939	Robert Reckentin	5/25/1967	James R. Walther	4/2/1987
Cal M. Mumy	2/13/1946	Claude Adkison	4/23/1968	Randy J. Musterman	4/20/1987
August Glosemeyer	5/10/1946	James A. Schwartze	5/7/1968	Larry E. Graves	4/20/1987
Garth K. Camden	10/6/1948	Berle R. Chambers	6/5/1968	Terry Lynn Washam	10/21/1987
Leroy A. Hall	4/19/1949	Hursel Tanner	7/10/1968	Wendal Ray O'Neal	2/8/1988
Lowell EugeneTallman	10/6/1949	Homer L. Bratton	10/25/1968	William Allen Carr	5/13/1988

Harold Hesse	10/6/1949	LeFate Essary	12/20/1968	Donna L. Lindsey	8/8/1988
Henry Beckman	7/7/1950	Frederick Trowbridge	12/20/1968	Adolph Emil Feth	9/28/1988
Floyd Ash	9/2/1950	Donald Wyatt	10/6/1969	William M. Caldwell, Jr.	7/18/1989
John C. Hawkins	11/8/1950	Marvin Lee Lewis	1/28/1970	George A. "Bud" Whited	8/29/1989
Harry S. Davis	11/14/1950	Harry Simmers	11/6/1970	Melvin J. Harris	2/22/1990
Theodore Ehlmann	6/7/1953	Sidney M. Mitchell	2/3/1971	Howard K. Anderson	3/16/1990
William Walker	6/12/1954	Danny Leake	4/13/1971	Garry L. Farrenburg	10/11/1990
Arthur Gordon	8/17/1954	Lawton Roberts	9/4/1971	James W. Minton	2/21/1991
Roland Resch	8/26/1954	Ray Edward Heyer	10/13/1971	Preston R. Elington	4/18/1991
Archie Goode	4/7/1955	Clarence Ingels	6/21/1973	Thomas C. Mirts	11/6/1991
Willbur Barnes	8/18/1955	David W. Cook	7/1/1973	Gregory D. Coleman	2/5/1993
Roy A. Roberston	4/20/1956	Leonard J Simon	7/16/1973	Jon W. Smith	8/1/1993
Lloyd M. Land	6/19/1956	Perry Barks	8/7/1973	George R. Pfeifer	8/26/1994
Silas Underwood	9/5/1956	Devere Limbocker	8/24/1973	Dennis R. Hayes	9/14/1995
Elyod Doyle	10/10/1957	Pete Menard	2/25/1974	Williams Wieda	2/6/1996
Irvin C. Cudworth	10/27/1957	Ivan Ramsey	8/9/1974	Nicole Graham	4/14/1997
Cleo Rhoad	2/18/1958	Daniel Taylor	10/21/1974	Arthur C. Walker, Jr.	7/11/1997
William Passley	9/4/1958	Dennis C. Evans	10/30/1974	William D. Miller	7/30/1997
John R. Mather	10/30/1958	Jos E. Embry	12/13/1974	Charles Rogers	8/21/1997
Wayne Hall	2/13/1959	Everett Bullock	2/18/1975	Larry C. Licklider	8/25/1997
James H. Glen	6/24/1959	Russell E. Tynes	5/22/1975	Marilyn J. Keller	6/1/2001
Cecil H. Jefferson	10/19/1959	Otis H. Capps	6/30/1975	Gerald T. Lizotte	8/31/2001
Joe W. Houston	11/5/1959	Hueston Schrum	7/14/1975	Duane D. Pace	5/13/2002
Henry Wohlgemuth	9/2/1960	James Carmichael	7/18/1975	Karla F. Baublitz	9/30/2003
E.E. Baker	10/29/1960	Wesley Jones	7/22/1975	Julie Love	7/22/2004
James R. Brannock	10/18/1961	Elmer Leon Lene	8/19/1976	Rick Harmon	8/19/2004
Joseph Saunders	7/23/1962	Thomas Snuffer	9/13/1976	Bert Vanatta	11/15/2004
Clarence Foster	8/20/1963	Otis N. Stretch	2/14/1978	Bob Eftink	4/7/2006
Paul Atchley	1/17/1964	Gary Dean Kirby	9/7/1978	Bob Mayer	4/23/2006
Myri Grayson	1/17/1964	Craig Shields	9/19/1978	Ken Hoierman	8/15/2006
Charles Schilb	7/31/1964	Joseph Hughes	1/13/1979	William Crain, II	10/17/2006
Ellis Suggs	9/3/1964	Eugene George	2/26/1979	Jeffery McBride	12/7/2007
William D. Mosley	12/8/1964	Calvin U. Johnson Jr.	6/27/1979	Joshua Slatten	3/18/2008
Roy E. Murphy	1/5/1965	Charles DeNatale	3/11/1980	Mike York	6/11/2008
Curtis J. Mullins	7/9/1965	Gerald F. Stiern	3/11/1980	Johnny Hays	6/18/2008
Paul C. Holt	8/3/1965	Randy Nail	9/4/1980	Clifton Scott	9/21/2012
Kenneth Hasbrouck	9/21/1965	Robert R. Aydt	11/21/1983		

We also honor those whose names are not recorded.

Vote, Vote and Vote Again for Safe & Sound

by Tammy Wallace

MoDOT's Safe & Sound bridge improvement program was recently selected as a top 10 finalist in the America's Transportation Award, sponsored by AASHTO, AAA and U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Those top 10 projects are now competing for a Grand Prize Award, decided by a panel of judges, and a People's Choice Award, based on online voting. Each award carries a $10,000 cash prize.

You can help Safe & Sound win the People's Choice Award by going online and casting your vote.

Voting continues through Oct. 2. The really great thing is that you can vote up to 10 times per day on a valid email address. So, you can vote at work and at home.

Check out all ten projects on the website, but be sure to vote early and often for Safe & Sound! MoDOT has a quick link on our home page http://www.modot.org, or you can go directly to the voting site at www.americastransportationawards.org.

Winners of both awards must donate the $10,000 to a charity or scholarship. MoDOT has chosen CureSearch for pediatric cancer research as the recipient should the project win a prize. CureSearch was chosen because one of the members of the KTU Constructors joint venture, Kiewit Western Company, has been an active sponsor for the charity.

Both awards will be presented October 20 at the AASHTO Annual Meeting in Denver.

Your help is needed – vote, vote, vote!

Team Talk

by Roberta Broeker

Hello Team MoDOT! I don't know about you, but I think summer has flown by. I hope you were able to take some time away from work to enjoy whatever it is you do to recharge your batteries. As you read this, I'm off on my summer vacation…heading for someplace north of here and cooler than the weather we've had the past few weeks. I hope you are all being extra careful out in the heat, and staying safe.

I know the next few weeks are a popular time for

MoDOT employees to squeeze in a few vacation days before the busy winter months, and if you're sitting on quite a bit of leave, to use it before you lose it. If you've already made plans, I hope you have a great time. However, if you are one of the many MoDOT employees with more leave time on the books than your maximum balance, I hope you will consider the ShareLeave program. In fact, I would challenge you to donate a few hours to ShareLeave.

MoDOT was the first state agency to create a ShareLeave program. That was back in 1992. Since then, MoDOT employees have donated 123,700 hours to the cause, and helped 352 of their coworkers with a little extra paid time away from work in their time of need. Establishing the ShareLeave program was actually kind of controversial at the time. A few years later, others figured out this is a great way for employees to help each other, and it was added to the Code of State Regulations as a program for all state agencies. That's another example of MoDOT leading the way in innovation.

Your small donation can make a big difference in the life of a MoDOT employee who needs additional time to deal with their own catastrophic or life threatening medical condition, or that of an immediate family member. These situations can be physically, emotionally and financially draining on an entire household. Keeping a paycheck coming in is a real godsend. But the dollar amount of the donated time is small compared to the precious time spent with family.

The best thing about this challenge is your part may be to do nothing! If your annual leave balance on Oct. 31 exceeds the maximum based on your years of service, the excess time will be automatically donated to ShareLeave. If your balance is below the maximum, you can still donate time to ShareLeave. You can sign up to donate hours every month, which is something I've been doing since 2005. I donate an hour a month. I don't miss it, and I know our ShareLeave Committee is able to put it to good use helping to ease the troubles of one of my coworkers. You can also make a one-time donation anytime you'd like. If you need more information on the program or want to sign up to donate hours, visit http://wwwi.dot.missouri/intranet/shareleave/default.htm.

This is a great way for us to show we care about each other and are ONE TEAM.
Thanks for being part of Team MoDOT!

PS – Be sure to check with your local HR staff if you have questions about maximum annual leave balances or go to Personnel Policy 3001 at http://hr.modot.mo.gov/index.php/Policy_3001.

Email Migration: Central District Update and Beyond

by Amie Peters

Last week we took what we learned from the Information Systems Outlook pilot, retooled our processes and rolled on to Central District. As we move through each migration we will continue to refine our processes even more, so that each migration will be smoother than the last. If you're wondering where your district or division falls in the rollout, see the graphic to the left.

We are still gauging the number of nightly migrations we can complete, and when we hit that ceiling we will put together a schedule so you have an idea when to expect your new email system. With winter weather just around the corner, we want to migrate those districts and divisions most heavily involved with winter operations first so they will have email when needed.

If you have any questions about Outlook I encourage you to check out our training site and FAQs as new things are added frequently. Thanks for your continued support.

Experiencing migration-related issues? Submit them to the HelpDesk!

Tis the Season for Giving

To The Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign

by Tammy Wallace

It's that time of year for giving. The Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign began earlier this week and runs thru Oct. 25. MoDOT employees have given so generously over the years, and the MSECC team members know we will open our wallets and handbags again this year and give from the heart.

Last year, MoDOT employees contributed $164,551.44, and for the sixth consecutive year, was the highest contributing state agency to the campaign. To keep that momentum going, last week Director Dave Nichols challenged all employees to give in some way, and to help keep MoDOT on top as the most charitable group of state employees.

There are many ways to give and have some fun too. Central Office and District coordinators plan fundraising events from selling food to holding crazy contests to raise money. Employees can also contribute a set amount from each paycheck, or make a one-time donation. Even a small deduction from your paycheck, as little as 50 cents, can make a difference.

Your area campaign coordinators will provide opportunities for you to contribute throughout the campaign. So join in the fundraising events and make those one-time and payroll deductions.

It all counts, so give generously!

Benevolent Golf Tournament Stats

The annual transportation day golf tournament to raise funds for the 10-33 Benenvolent Fund happened on Monday at the newly redesigned and renovated Columbia Country Club. There was a huge turnout of 200 golfers plus volunteers. The teams had fun and raised over $21,000 for the fund!

MoDOT Tournament Coordinator Travis Koestner said next year's tournament will be held the second Monday after Labor Day.

The 10-33 Benevolent Fund provides families of state employees $5,000 immediately following the unfortunate circumstance of their loved one being killed on the job.

Contest Winners
Phil Raines - Longest Drive #1 (Men)
Doris Kunze - Longest Drive #1 (Women)
Trent Robinett - Closest to the Pin #16 (Men)
Pam Hobbs - Closest to the Pin #16 (Women)

MoDOT Director Dave Nichols (left) and former Governor Roger Wilson prepare to announce the winners of the day's event. Wilson stated the fund has helped 81 families in recent years.

Championship Flight					
1st	Trent Robinett	John Conway	Brian Kidwell	Larry Frevert	52
2nd	Mike Myers	Brad Rumfelt	Brent Snook	Ron Barton	58
A – Flight					
1st	Bruce Green	Gidget Mott	Brad Roark	Joe Carter	63
2nd	Mike Curtit	Mike Stephenson	John Miller	John Schaefer Jr.	63
B – Flight					
1st	Barry Rolle	Cory Imhoff	Jim Smith	Kurt Gribble	64
2nd	Stephen Wells	Randy Hartman	Matt Killion	Bob Brendel	64
C – Flight					
1st	Buddy Desai	Bob Brendel	Chris Boyd	Dave Nichols	66
2nd	Chip Touzinsky	Dan Niec	Don Wichern	Tom Evers	66

Fast Facts

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

Did You Know?

Just 5,500 miles of Missouri highways carry 80 percent of the state's traffic.

Fatality Update

What's Happening

2014 Benefit Update

The 2014 Medical & Life Insurance Plan Update for MoDOT and the MSHP is being finalized. This is an open enrollment year for active employees, so keep an eye out for the update booklet, which will be sent to your home address.

Updates will be shared with employees during employee fall meetings.

Watch your mailbox for this important information.

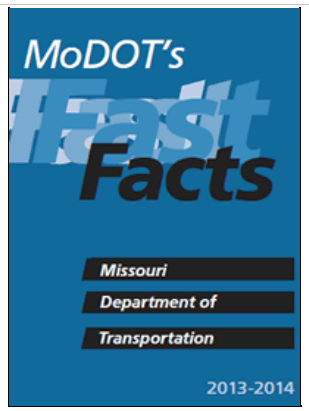
Chat With the Chief

Remember to check out Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger's blog post and see Ed's comments on MoDOT's Day of Remembrance - Chat with the Chief.

Fast Facts Updated

MoDOT's Fast Facts is updated and ready for distribution. The handy pocket-sized handout summarizes the department's most-cited facts, feats and challenges.

It comes in handy when employees need a quick, verified fact for a report. Information about rail, water ports, airports transit and bike/pedestrian features help our customers understand that MoDOT is more than "the highway department."



Copies are available through District and Central Office Customer Relations Divisions.

Tiger Grant Award

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx was in Kansas City earlier this month to announce the award of a $20 million TIGER discretionary grant for a streetcar project to connect the River Market area near the Missouri River to Crown Center/Union Station.

Among those attending the ceremony were (L-R): Commissioner Stephen Miller, Secretary Foxx, Commissioner Joe Carmichael, Commissioner Kelley Martin and MoDOT Director Dave Nichols.

Keeping Kids Safe

National Child Passenger Safety Week is Sept. 15-21. The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety wants all caregivers of young children to know the importance of buckling children in an appropriate child restraint. Motorists can also expect increased enforcement of Missouri's child seat safety laws during this campaign.

For more information on Child Passenger Safety Week, visit saveMOlives.com. You can also follow SaveMOLives on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, #saveMOlives and #ArriveAlive.

More Prizes to Win

Another online competition is ready for voting, AASHTO's Faces of Transportation. This is an annual photo competition, and MoDOT's own Cathy Morrison once again has entries vying for the $500 prize. Vote for Cathy's photos at: http://facesoftransportation.org.

Win a MoDOT Centennial T-shirt

Congratulations to Central Office employee Pam Richter and Kansas City District's Becky Wheatley for earning MoDOT Centennial T-shirts by knowing that MoDOT is celebrating 20 years of Motorist Assist this fall.

This issue's quiz is about MoDOT Day of Remembrance. In what year did MoDOT hold its first Day of Remembrance ceremonies?

- 2013
- 1985
- 1964
- 1946

Enter online here: Quiz or fax your answer, name and phone number to (573) 526-4859 by Friday, Oct. 4 for a shot at the next t-shirt give away *(link works for active employees only).*

September Retirements

Patrick W. Nelson - NW - 13 years
Rick K. Ellison - NE - 35 years
Arthur E. Failor - KC - 29 years
Charles L. Harris - KC - 21 years
Donald E. Boettcher - CD - 17 years
Thomas J. Grippe - CD - 28 years
Dale L. Rollins - CD - 24 years
Donald W. Harmon - SL - 13 years
John L. Pritchett - SL - 31 years
Mark A. Sauerwein - SL - 30 years
Ricky R. McCallister - SW - 25 years
Earl J. Wallace - SW - 29 years
William K. Brawley - SE - 18 years
Harry W. Holtmeyer - CO - 21 years
Kenneth R .Kell - CO - 28 years
Carolyn B. McBride - CO - 18 years

In Memorium

John Matteson
former D5 – August 10
Henry Johnson
former D10 – August 16
Joe Lewis
former D3 – August 19
Junior Zerbe
former D1 – August 23
Marion Howell
former D1 – August 24
Francis Burgert
former D10 – August 26
Charles Brockman
former D1 – August 27
James Reser
former D5 – Sept. 2
Ronald Faulkenberry
SW – Sept. 2
Mark Powell
former D4 – Sept. 4

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573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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CO NW NE
KC CD SL SW SE

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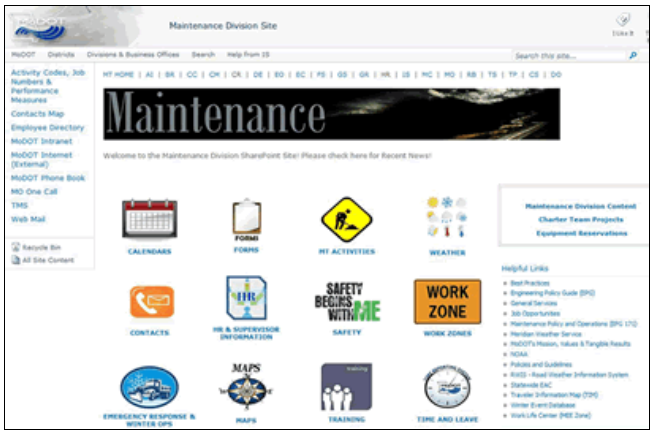
September 19, 2013

New SharePoint Template Means Easy Access to the Information Field Employees Need Most

by Holly Dentner

No matter what position you hold at MoDOT, the tools you use can be vital to your success. Making the most of the tools we have can make us more productive and better organized. A team of statewide MoDOT employees were recently tasked with finding the right tool for field employees to easily access and share information.

The team's purpose was to determine the best way to share information in a consistent, organized and simplified way, consolidated in one area, with easy access for maintenance and traffic field personnel. It was also important to work across district boundaries, organize safety resources so they were accessible, and allow flexibility.



A snapshot of the new maintenance SharePoint site tool that provides easy access to information for maintenance and traffic field personnel.

"It was important to not only make information easy to locate, but also make things consistent across districts," said Tim Chojnacki, maintenance liaison engineer. "We determined that a SharePoint site template could provide that for us, so our team sat down and worked out some best practices."

SharePoint can be used as a way to gather all the electronic resources used by maintenance employees and present them in a concise, easy-to-find manner, which would help reduce the time it takes in the office to complete their work.

Creating a functional, useful site meant gathering input from those who would be its core users – maintenance superintendents, maintenance supervisors and maintenance crew workers. The team also considered traffic engineers, technicians, customer service, and other MoDOT divisions that interact with maintenance.

"We used a 'three-click' philosophy when determining what the maintenance template would look like," said Chojnacki. "That means users should be able to find what they're looking for in three mouse clicks or less."

Every district maintenance and Central Office maintenance division now use the same SharePoint template. It is designed to resemble a smartphone interface, where icons are used to direct users to the information they need. No matter what district site you go to, you can find a grid of matching icons that link to commonly used forms, weather information, MoDOT contacts, safety, work zones, emergency response and winter operations, training and maintenance activity information.

"Each district maintenance site also has a section where the information can be customized," said Chojnacki. "Several districts have added other maintenance documents, photos and helpful links."

The team also recommended regular evaluation of site content, and added a link on every page where users can report broken links or the need for updates. Quarterly reviews will also ensure that content remains relevant and useful.

Check out your maintenance SharePoint site through these links:

Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign Central Office Kick-off

The first MSECC Kick-off took place this week at Central Office with four more events to take place over the next week. The campaign is getting off to a great start and several fundraising events have already been scheduled. Come and join in the fun!

Breakfast is served. The MSECC Kick-off event started with a sausage and pancake breakfast and gave employees the opportunity to visit with local charities.

- **Sept. 23 - Nachos and Soda** – every Monday throughout the campaign (hosted by transportation planning)
- **Oct. 3 – Carnival** – games, prizes, hot dogs, snacks (hosted by human resource)
- **Oct. 4 - Popcorn –** every Friday throughout the campaign (hosted by chief counsel's office)
- **Oct. 8 - Biscuits and Gravy** (hosted by bridge)
- **Oct. 9 - Silent Auction** (hosted by financial services)
- **Oct. 9 - Taco Salad in a Bag Lunch** (hosted by financial services)
- **Oct. 10 - "Hooray Hooray it's Food Truck Day"** (hosted by traffic/highway safety and maintenance)

The Events Calendar is updated almost daily, so check the calendar frequently for new events, look for fliers in your building and stay tuned for weekly email updates. Events Calendar *(link works for active employees only).*

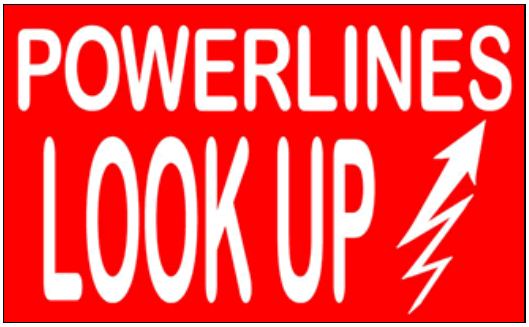
September Health and Safety Tips

Look Up and Live - Power Line Safety

More than half of all electrocutions are caused by contact with overhead lines. When working in an elevated position near overhead lines, avoid locations where you (and any conductive object you hold) could contact an unguarded or un-insulated line.

Vehicle operators should also pay attention to overhead wiring. Dump trucks, bucket trucks and cranes can lift and make contact with overhead lines. Overhead power lines can carry very high voltages, but there are safety work practices you can follow to stay out of danger.

Safety Work Practices



- Before you begin to work, survey the job site carefully. Look for overhead power lines. Keep in mind that branches may hide power lines.
- Always assume overhead lines are energized, bare, and dangerous, no matter what they may look like.
- State law mandates only authorized personnel can do any work within 10 feet of a high voltage line.
- The use of hi-visibility cones or cone sleeves shall be used to warn operators as to the location of overhead utility lines
- Utility companies should be contacted before work begins on removing or pruning trees in close proximity of overhead power lines. All necessary safety precautions should be taken.
- Operators of trucks and equipment should always watch for overhead utility lines when the bed or boom is being raised.
- Vehicles equipped with booms must have the boom lowered and secured before moving.
- When dumping loads on a roadway, have a spotter available for watching overhead lines.
- The spotter must be in a safe location to observe the operation, at the best vantage point
- for a clear view. The spotter should watch for all possible hazards and angles, slopes and movements of the operation.
- The equipment operator and spotter must work as a team to accomplish the task in a safe and efficient manner.
- Never touch an overhead line if it has been brought down by machinery or has fallen.
- Never assume lines are dead.

- Also, never touch a person who is in contact with a live power line.
- Call the local utility to get emergency personnel on the way so the line can be de-energized.
- When a machine is in contact with an overhead line, ***DO NOT*** allow anyone to come near or touch the machine.
- If you should be in a vehicle that is in contact with an overhead power line, ***DON'T LEAVE THE VEHICLE.*** As long as you stay inside and avoid touching metal on the vehicle, you may avoid an electrical hazard. If you need to get out to summon help or because of fire, jump out without touching any wires or the machine, keep your feet together, and hop to safety.

When you're working close to a power line, always use good judgment and stay away. Keep all equipment a minimum of 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Even greater clearance may be required, depending on voltage and work conditions.

Be Safe!

What's Happening at Central Office

Diversity Education Workshop – PostSecret Project

Monday, Sept. 30 – 2 p.m.
Conference Room #100 – Central Office
Travis Tamerius – William Woods University's Center for Ethics and Global Studies

The workshop is aimed at raising awareness about mental health issues, the challenges for personal growth, and respect for and understanding of others in the workplace. Attendees will receive one hour LMS credit. Check the flier for more information - Flier

To register - LMS Student Center - course #24287: The PostSecret Project

For questions about the workshop, contact: Darla Gjesvold – Darla.Gjesvold@modot.mo.gov or 573-522-9482

Threatened and Endangered Species Workshop

Thursday, Oct. 17
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Jefferson City
Morning session - Classroom
Afternoon session – Field Trip
The workshop is for employees or interns wanting or needing more information about threatened and endangered species, sensitive habitats, and protected resources. Participants will receive LMS course credit. This course will be offered two or three times a year, the next class will be in spring 2014.
To register - LMS Student Center - course #22076: Threatened and Endangered Species

For questions contact: Bree McMurray - Bree.McMurray@modot.mo.gov or 573-526-0606 or Chris Shulse - Christopher.Shulse@modot.mo.gov or 573-526-6678

New Information for Mentors

1) An online article that gives good insight to mentoring - The Art of Mentoring

2) A video on achieving goals (which is good information for all employees) - One Step at a Time

Previous mentoring newsletters are also available on SharePoint http://sharepoint/facilitation/EOD/mentor/SitePages/Home.aspx *(link works for active employees only)*

For questions about MoDOT's mentoring program, contact: Darla Gjesvold - Darla.Gjesvold@modot.mo.gov or 573-522-9482

CPR Training

Location: HRED Training Room B, 601 W. Main, Jefferson City

Oct. 18		12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Oct. 28		12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Nov. 5	8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	
Nov. 21		12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Dec 11	8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	

Sign up now using this LMS Student Center Sign-On link - LMS Student Center *(link works for active employees only).*

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Northwest District

Northwest District Participates in Football Rivalry

The Northwest Regional Coalition for Roadway Safety participated in last week's Bell Game. The annual football game between Marceline and Brookfield began in 1898. It has been played annually since 1922 and in 1937, a 30-pound brass bell from a local fire engine became the rallying point and symbol for the game. This year, thanks to a massive effort by both schools, including over 1.7 million votes in one week of final round voting, it won the USA Today National High School Rivalry contest. Due to the popularity of the game, national media coverage, limited space and the large crowds that were anticipated, the Coalition was invited to participate in two events prior to the game.

On Wednesday, Sept. 18, Area Engineer Tonya Lohman, Construction Project Office Assistant Tammy Meneely, and NE District Senior Highway Designer Shannon Skoglund attended an assembly at Marceline High School. During the assembly they spoke with students about the importance of buckling up and avoiding impaired and distracted driving, shot t-shirts into the crowd and had students sign a Buckle Up! pledge card.

Marceline lost a student to a traffic incident two years ago. The student was buckled up, but was hit by an impaired driver. The Coalition's message hit home and nearly every student signed the pledge card with a crowd rushing the table after the assembly, eager to sign up. The Students Against Drunk Driving organization at the school also approached Lohman to let her know they would be sponsoring this year's Battle of the Belt efforts for their school.

On Friday, Sept. 13, employees from the Northwest District Office, Chillicothe RE Office, Brookfield maintenance and Lathrop maintenance, along with Sgt. Bernhardt of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, attended the pre-game tailgate party in Brookfield. Students attending the tailgate had a chance to use Fatal Vision goggles, ride the seat belt convincer, learn about the hazards of not buckling up and sign a Buckle Up! pledge card.

Many students and local residents participated in the tailgate activities, including the school band. As the tailgate party was wrapping up, a fire truck pulled up alongside the park where the party was held. The high school band then lined up behind the fire truck, then other students, school staff and local residents lined up behind the band and the entire group paraded down Main Street in Brookfield to the stadium ringing the bell they've kept for four consecutive years all the way. Thanks to Tammy Meneely, Nicole Smith, Ashley Rhodus, Jose' Rodriguez, Joseph Turner, Derek Bragg and Shawn Armstrong for helping out in Brookfield.

A student holding the bell for which the Bell Game is named took time to sign the Buckle Up! pledge card.

The Seat Belt Convincer, operated by Sgt. Bernhardt of Troop B, Missouri State Highway Patrol, was a very popular activity.

Senior Traffic Studies Specialist Joseph Turner helped Brookfield students try out the Fatal Vision goggles, which simulate an elevated blood alcohol level. Many students found themselves dizzy and disoriented long after they'd removed the goggles.

Many students were amazed at how large our highway signs are! Maintenance and Traffic provided signs and a working signal head for the event.

Celebrating Diversity

Dr. Tim Crowley of Northwest Missouri State University led the morning session at the Northwest District Diversity Conference. In addition to managers, supervisors and crew leaders, several departments brought guests, providing a packed house for the conference.

Dr. Crowley spoke on inclusion and diversity in the workplace at the Diversity Conference held in Chillicothe on Wednesday, Sept. 4.

Jason Greer of Greer Consulting, Inc. role played a supervisor giving a performance review with Bethany Maintenance Supervisor Jeff King. Mr. Greer presented two approaches using different body language, expressions and language to show how non-verbal cues can play a role in relationships, conflict and exclusion.

Mr. Greer asked everyone to participate in an exercise on observation. Each pair of participants first observed each other face-to-face for several minutes. They then turned their backs to each other and made five changes to their appearance, then turned around and the other person tried to discern all five changes. Then he asked everyone to turn back-to-back again and make five additional changes. Equipment Technician Supervisor Jim Kier is shown after making several changes.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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September 19, 2013

South Lincoln Drive Opens With A Roll

The festivities to celebrate the unique design of the South Lincoln Drive Interchange began one week before the ribbon cutting with a "Roundabout Run." Organized by a local resident, Jim Ditter, the run allowed participants the opportunity to "run in circles" in the interchange on its three roundabouts. Ditter also organized a flag dedication, which has been placed in the middle roundabout.

About 20 people helped cut the ribbon to signify the opening of the new South Lincoln Drive Interchange which features three roundabouts. The ribbon was cut immediately following a real drum roll by the Troy Buchanan High School Drum Line. See more pictures.

Almost one year to the day of the groundbreaking in 2012, about 60 people attended the ribbon cutting, held on Tuesday, September 10. Special performances were given by the Troy Buchanan High School Drum Line, who preempted the actual cutting of the ribbon with a drum roll. Dignitaries included federal, state and local elected officials, Paula Gough, NE District Engineer, and Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger.

The total cost of the interchange was around $10 million, and the contractor was Iron Mountain, LLC.

Around the District...

What kind of winter will it be? The Farmers' Almanac is using words like "piercing cold," "bitterly cold" and "biting cold" to describe the upcoming winter. If its predictions are right, the first outdoor Super Bowl in years will be a messy "Storm Bowl."

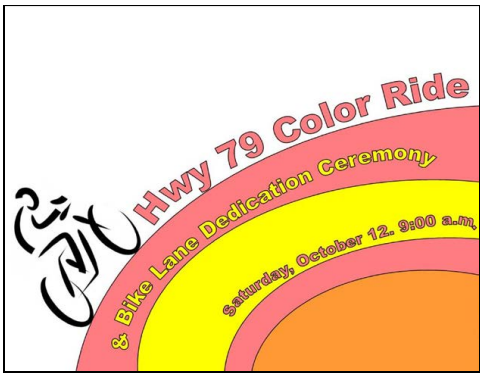
How much credence should you put in the almanac's predictions? Despite the publication's long history and claim of 80 percent accuracy, it doesn't really have all that good a track record. Last year, the forecast called for cold weather for the eastern and central U.S. with milder temperatures west of the Great Lakes. It started just the opposite, but ended up that way.

If you don't want to go by the almanac's prediction, here is a bit of folklore: *If the first week in August is unusually warm, the coming winter will be snowy and long.*

More than 300 kids came to Hannibal's Big Truck Night this week, and the majority of them made a stop by the MoDOT truck to visit with Buckles the Bear who reminded them to always wear a safety belt. His helper, Elena Nemes, outreach coordinator for the NE Coalition for Roadway Safety, distributed materials to moms and dads who brought the little ones by.

Troy maintenance crews are receiving shipments of salt this week getting ready for what we all hope is a mild winter.

NE District Engineer Paula Gough addresses the Highway and Transportation Commission at their meeting in Clarksville last week. She talked about the citizen's engagement effort for the U.S. 54 Mississippi River Bridge at Louisiana. A crowd of about 100 attended the meeting.



(Above right) The MoKan Concrete Association took several MoDOT engineers and contractors on a tour last week of the unique project to resurface MO 79 south of Hannibal with 5" of concrete. The project included asphalt shoulders to be marked as bike lanes, as well as new guard rail along the 8 mile project. The "Highway 79 Color Ride and Bike Lanes Dedication" ceremony will be held Saturday, Oct. 12 at 9 a.m. beginning at Sawyer's Creek Fun Park. A member of the Color Ride Committee designed the logo above left, and another member created an event page on Facebook.

All Facilities Sold in NE District

With the recent closing of the sales of the Eolia and Louisiana maintenance facilities, the Northeast District has now completed the conveyance of all of the facilities that were closed during the Bolder 5-Year Direction. This includes one RE Office and 13 maintenance facilities.

"I believe this initiative has been a huge success as demonstrated by the following statistics," stated Jonathan Barnes, NE District Right of Way Manager.

Appraised Value of BFYD facilities: $1,085,900
Sales Price of BFYD facilities: $1,399,200
Amount above appraised value: $313,300
Percentage of appraised value: 129%
Jonathan also noted that the NE District is the first district to dispose of all of their BFYD facilities.

"We are very proud of this accomplishment and would like to thank everyone who has helped us during this process. We could not have done it without you," he added.

The Eolia maintenance facility was the last to sell in the NE District, and it's going to a good cause. The Pike/Lincoln Technical Center bought the facility to use after its own facility burned more than a year ago.

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Kansas City District

Anniversary Celebration Marks Decades of Assisting Kansas City Motorists

by Gina Myles

They have been called "highway heroes" and "interstate angels" by people they have helped. For Kansas City Motorist Assist operators it is a passion, and all a part of the job. From changing flat tires, to mechanical issues, to helping someone who has run out of gas, Kansas City commuters can count on a motorist assist unit arriving on scene to get them safely on their way.

On Friday, Sept. 6, MoDOT commemorated Motorist Assist's 20 years of making metro area highways safer for drivers. The milestone anniversary was celebrated with an open house at the MoDOT Kansas City District headquarters.

On Sept. 6, MoDOT commemorated Motorist Assist's 20 year run of making metro area highways safer for drivers.

What began as an idea to reduce congestion by patrolling 24 miles of Kansas City interstates in 1993 has now grown into an Incident Management Program that includes more than 165 miles of roadways to manage incidents and provide traffic control for first responders with the simple focus of protecting motorists.

In 2012 Motorist Assist operators handled nearly 20,000 incidents, including over 4,000 abandoned vehicles, 1,750 mechanical repairs and nearly 2,290 tire changes.

"Our motorist assist operators do a phenomenal job keeping traffic flowing as smoothly as possible and helping stranded motorists get on their way safely," said Chris Redline, MoDOT Assistant District Engineer for the Kansas City District. "They love what they do in spite of the dangerous conditions they work under. This shows true dedication to helping others."

Kansas City Scout also celebrated its 10 year anniversary. The public was invited to tour the Scout Traffic Management Center and learn firsthand how the Scout system operates to keep traffic flowing smoothly.

Kansas City Scout also celebrated its 10 year anniversary. In 2003 Scout launched to become the eyes and ears of the Motorist Assist program utilizing nearly 300 closed circuit television cameras -- monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year -- 42 dynamic message signs and several thousand congestion detector stations, travel times, ramp meters and other tools.

Scout, the only bi-state traffic management system in the country, was jointly developed and is operated by KDOT and MoDOT. This valuable partnership is the basis for Scout's Incident Management program created in 2007 uniting over 150 agencies from law enforcement, fire departments, tow and recovery companies, local media and DOT maintenance personnel in quick clearance of incidents.

In 2012 Motorist Assist operators handled nearly 20,000 incidents, including over 4,000 abandoned vehicles, 1,750 mechanical repairs and nearly 2,290 tire changes.

Scout has decreased average incident clearance times from 22 minutes to approximately 13 minutes overall during rush hours reducing the risk of secondary incidents, which

statistically involve more serious injuries. Reducing the amount of time accidents block the flow of traffic saves Missourians time, money, protects the safety of on-scene responders and motorists, and improves air quality.

Speakers at the event included MoDOT Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker, KDOT Division Director of Planning and Development Chris Herrick, Lee's Summit Police Captain Jim Green, KMBC TV personality Stephanie Ramos, MoDOT Assistant District Engineer Chris Redline, Scout Manager Jason Sims and Incident Management Coordinator Rusty James. Many former motorist assist operators, incident management partners and other distinguished guests also attended the celebration.

It was also an opportunity for the public to personally thank motorist assist operators and tour the Scout Traffic Management Center to learn first hand how the Scout system keeps traffic flowing smoothly.

Speakers at the event included MoDOT Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker, KDOT Division Director of Planning and Development Chris Herrick, Lee's Summit Police Captain Jim Green, KMBC TV personality Stephanie Ramos, MoDOT Assistant District Engineer Chris Redline, Scout Manager Jason Sims and Incident Management Coordinator Rusty James.

More information about Scout and the Motorist Assist program can be found at: www.kcscout.net.

For more info

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Fireworks, Vintage Cars, Hurricane Glasses Celebrate Opening of Hurricane Deck Bridge

The construction of the new Hurricane Deck Bridge in Sunrise Beach is complete, and the bridge is now open to traffic. It's the talk of the Lake of the Ozarks area, so to celebrate this successful and historic project, we've put together a couple of videos and a handful of fun facts about the bridge for your enjoyment.

See the bridge's construction from start to finish in under one-minute with this time-lapsed video:

If you weren't able to make it to the Sept. 7 ribbon cutting, this video offers a front-row seat to the ceremony:

High-resolution pictures of both the old and new bridge, as well as photos of the dedication ceremony, are available for downloading at the Central District Flickr and Central Office Flickr accounts.

And finally, if you want to impress your friends with fun facts, here are a few good ones about the new bridge:

- More than 10,000 cubic yards of concrete is in the structure. If all the concrete was stacked on top of a football field, the concrete would be 5 ½ feet high.
- About 1.75 million pounds of reinforced steel is in the concrete
- The girders supporting the bridge's concrete deck are as long as 265 feet
- Workers moved more than 20,000 cubic yards of rock and dirt to make way for the new bridge. If stacked on a football field, the dirt pile would stand 12 feet tall.

- Experienced trade workers spent more than 50,000 hours building the bridge, not including time spent on the project by support staff.

Partnership Yields Results in Crawford County

MoDOT's Central District and the Crawford County Commission recently partnered to give the citizens of Crawford County a safer intersection.

The intersection at Route C and Argo Road had been on the Meramec Regional Planning Commission's list of needed improvements because of an accident history caused by limited sight distance at the county road approach. To take care of the problem, Central District staff proposed a funding partnership.

The county commission took MoDOT up on its offer, and the two organizations combined their efforts to raise the north approach to maximize sight distances. Work crews also paved both approaches to allow stopped vehicles to get traction to accelerate without spinning out on gravel.

The current intersection of Route C and Argo Road in Crawford County as it looks today.

"This is a great example of a small-dollar partnership to address a big need in the area," said Meramec Area Engineer Preston Kramer. "Thanks to a willingness to work together to serve motorists, the intersection will now be removed from the RPC's Transportation Needs List."

Safety First at the Salem Shed

The Salem maintenance facility has come up with a way to put safety at the forefront of each worker's mind every day during their morning meetings.

Maintenance staff discuss safety items relevant to the day's work, and each of the workers and supervisors are asked to contribute one safety reminder about the work to be performed. This requires the meeting participants to actively listen to the conversation and to think about their contribution to the meeting.

The shed has also mounted a message board (pictured at left) above the meeting area, which contains important safety reminders, milestones and information relating to the day's tasks.

Congratulations to the Salem staff on these best practices!

District Happenings

Work to widen Stadium Boulevard in Columbia and install a diverging diamond interchange at Stadium and I-70 is making good progress. Here workers pour new pavement, curbs and gutters near Bernadette Street.

It might look like a hot air balloon, but it's actually the Versailles salt storage facility's new fabric tent. The tent had to be placed when there was no wind to ensure the installers didn't end up in in Kansas when removing or stretching the new fabric on the framework!

Equipment Technician Chad Smith helps the Mokane chip seal team with the chip seal roller on Route AB southwest of Williamsburg.

Just a reminder to sign up for the district's 1st Annual 5K Run/Walk to benefit the Employee Crossroad Fund. Click on the image at left for the registration packet.

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1935 Boone Bridge Gets a Check-Up

by Linda Wilson Horn

The St. Louis District and the statewide bridge crews worked together to coordinate the full closure of the 1935 westbound I-64 Daniel Boone Missouri River Bridge on Saturday, Sept. 7. The bridge was due for its biannual bridge inspection. Since the bridge is only 33 feet wide, it has to be closed to traffic for the inspection to be safely done.

Bridge inspectors checked all the critical components of the 1935 I-64 Missouri River Bridge to ensure it was safe for another two years.

Crews began at noon and reopened it to traffic at 8 p.m. The inspection showed no changes from the last inspection in 2011. MoDOT's Design-Build contract to build a new I-64 Boone Bridge will replace this 1935 structure. The new bridge project will be complete in fall 2015 and the 1935 bridge will be removed.

The complete closure of westbound I-64 required detailed coordination of all the Gateway Guide messages in the region. The westbound bridge carries approximately 50,000 vehicles per day. Detours were posted to the other three Missouri River crossings between St. Louis and St. Charles Counties. MoDOT also coordinated the closure to begin after traffic had already left town for the Mizzou home game in Columbia.

The traffic detouring required a huge coordination effort. Hats off to the maintenance, Motorist Assist and traffic staff who worked to safely close and reopen the bridge under heavy traffic. Great job to the Customer Service staff for fielding the calls from confused drivers on how to get around the closure. For more information and to see photos of the construction of the new I-64 Daniel Boone Missouri River Bridge, go to www.modot.org/boonebridge.

Join the Healthy LifeStyle Challenge

by Kara Price

October 1 kicks off the St. Louis Healthy LifeStyle Challenge! It is designed to initiate MoDOT employees into making healthy eating, diet and exercise habits and promote quitting any unhealthy habits created over the years.

The challenge is judged on a quarterly basis and is a team-based activity. Employees can team up with one or more coworkers and it doesn't have to be someone in your own work unit. As a team, they will be able to encourage each other through this challenge and help break some bad habits and create some new healthy ones.

Each participant will have a monthly log where they can track the points they earn in various categories. At the end of each quarter the team with the highest

average per person will win for that quarter and will be recognized by the district.

"The idea behind this is to make some positive changes that promote healthy living while creating a fun atmosphere in St. Louis that builds upon our strong team environment,"said Lisa Lamons, St. Louis District safety and health manager. "The reward is your results; however, we do plan to give out a few prizes or two."

The team with the highest average of points for the quarter will be recognized by the St. Louis District! But again, this challenge is for YOU - because YOU want to make some healthier choices in your life!

MoDOT and Safety Partners Support Jefferson County Community

by Kara Price

Members of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety's St. Louis region recently supported its fellow Jefferson County safety group, *One Curve at a Time*, in a community kickball tournament.

The Arrive Alive team supported One Curve at a Time safety group at its annual kickball tournament. This team included MoDOT volunteers and partners on the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety.

One Curve at a Time is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building awareness and making changes to dangerous roads and curves. With a growing number of volunteers, it focuses on educating the public about critical road problems, working with local law enforcement to enhance accountability for safe driving and advocating for engineering and other solutions, so that problem areas along roadways and curves are addressed.

"Thank you to our many members who formed our Arrive Alive kickball team and supported this safety group's important initiative," said Judy Wagner, MoDOT Area Engineer for Franklin and Jefferson Counties.

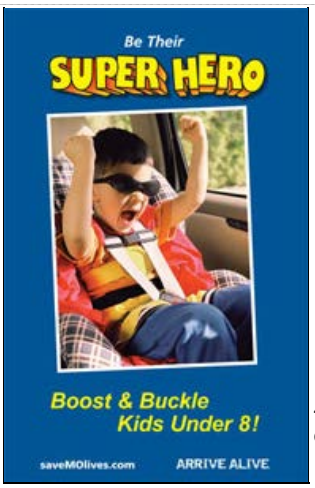
She added, "Through this event, our coalition did a great job in bringing safety awareness to motorists about driving safely on state highways, especially on curves and rural routes."

Volunteers Needed for Child Passenger Safety Event

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety's St. Louis coalition and SAFE KIDS will be at Kid City/Taste of St. Louis throughout the weekend of September 28-29 from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed to register parents for child passenger seat checks and share information on child safety, teen driving and texting while driving. They may also assist with other safety demonstrations. If you are available or have questions, please contact MoDOT's Shirlyn Myles at 314-453-1811 or shirlyn.myles@modot.mo.gov.

The event is located at Soldiers Memorial downtown and usually attracts about 20,000 visitors of all ages. The area MoDOT/SAFEKIDS is in caters to youngsters and their parents. Visit the following link for more info on this exciting event: http://stlkidcity.com/childsafety.html

Car crashes are the number one killer of children. Missouri law requires all children under eight to be in a child safety or booster seat until they are 80 lbs or



4'9" tall. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, three out of four child safety seats are improperly installed.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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SW District at Work

HYDRO-SEEDING: Roadside Senior Maintenance Worker David Bell sprays a slurry of grass seed and mulch to adhere to slopes at the Route 60/65 interchange in Springfield. (Photo/Bob Edwards)

FALL MOWING UNDER WAY: Carthage Senior Maintenance Worker Clint Erwin mows along Jasper County Route AA near Carterville. (Photo/David Mitchell)

More Employees Certified In First Aid/CPR/AED

by David Mitchell

Another batch of Southwest District employees is trained and certified in First Aid/CPR/AED, putting the district at the 80-percent level with the certification.

The training is mandatory for MoDOT maintenance workers, and recommended for everyone else.

"The goal is to get 100 percent of the district certified," District Safety and Health Manager Gary McLarry said. "We hope everyone will see the importance of the training and sign up for classes when they're offered in their area."

Fourteen employees in the Joplin Regional Office went through the training in early September. The National Safety Council certification is for two years. It covers cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, use of an automated external defibrillator and emergency first-aid techniques. The district also provides an OSHA standard blood-borne pathogens awareness training during these sessions which is beyond what is included in the National Safety Council training.

Practicing CPR in a training class is Nevada Construction Project Office Assistant Leslie Griffitt. (Photo/David Mitchell)

The need for the training is more than theoretical. In May, a man picking up a piece of equipment near the District Garage in Springfield collapsed. Five district employees drew upon their life-saving training to try to revive the man. While they could not revive the man, the employees reacted quickly and knew what steps to take.

"The biggest fear people have in giving CPR or first aid is they will do something wrong and make matters worse," Risk Management Safety Officer Doug Foley said.

"Your mind is racing and you may only do 20 chest compressions (30 are recommended between administering mouth-to-mouth breaths)," Foley said. "That's OK. That's better than doing nothing. You're doing something to keep the person going until help arrives."

"Time is of the essence" in emergency health situations, CPR trainer and Carthage Senior Maintenance Worker Clay Novinger told the class in Joplin,

People trained in the life-saving techniques can use them at work or any other time.

"At Thanksgiving dinner something could happen to your own family," Novinger said.

Senior Risk Management Technician Jodie Payne said recent National Safety Council statistics indicate nine out of 10 deaths and about 70 percent of injuries requiring medical attention happen away from work.

Citing the American Heart Association in an email encouraging employees to get the training, Payne said, "Sadly, 70 percent of Americans may feel helpless to act during a cardiac emergency. This alarming statistic could hit close to home because home is exactly where 88 percent of cardiac arrests occur."

Classes like this one are offered at various times throughout the year all across the district. Employees will receive notice well ahead of the next offering.

Speed Limit Reduced to 40 mph On Range Line Road in Joplin

by David Mitchell

Maintenance crews were busy Wednesday night into Thursday morning installing new speed limit signs along a four-mile segment of Range Line Road (Bus. Loop 49) in Joplin.

Drivers now must slow down to 40 mph between Newman Road and 44th Street. The old speed limit was 45 mph.

"There are 14 signs to change out," Joplin Assistant Maintenance Supervisor Tony Gates said. Three crews worked overnight to do the work.

By state law, the new speed limit goes into effect when signs are posted.

MoDOT requested the lower speed limit after studies of traffic along Range Line Road.

Traffic engineers determined the reduced speed limit is more appropriate for this area because the number of crashes is higher than the statewide average for five-lane roads. Traffic Operations Engineer Leo Cologna said the crash rate on Range Line Road is 73 percent higher than the statewide average for similar types of road.

Traffic Engineer Joe Rickman said, "Many of the crashes on Range Line are rear-end crashes. Rear-end crashes most commonly occur where you have a combination of higher speeds and a large number of access points (driveways and streets). Lowering the speed limit is one way to reduce the number of rear-end crashes. When speeds are reduced, it also lessens the severity of the crashes that do occur."

The 40-mph on Range Line Road is comparable to the 40 mph speed limit on Glenstone Avenue in Springfield where similar issues of safety and access are present.

The Joplin City Council in August approved an ordinance supporting the speed limit reduction.

"Business-Capable" Runway Dedicated at Clinton Airport

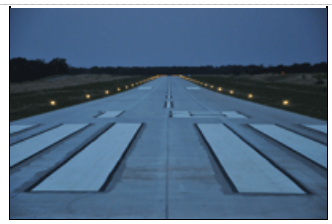
by Bob Edwards

A new 5,000-foot long runway at Clinton Memorial Airport, a length needed to accommodate corporate jets, is a potential boost for the region's economy, community and MoDOT leaders said at a dedication Thursday.

When companies are looking for a place to locate or expand, a "business-capable" airport is high on a CEO's priority list, officials said as they stepped onto the runway to cut a ribbon.

The project cost $6.2 million, paid for with federal, state and local funds, with MoDOT administering a federal grant. Aviation Programs Manager Liz Duvall was project manager. Construction began in October 2011. The runway and connecting taxiway went into service in August 2013.

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission member Gregg Smith of



Those helping dedicate(above) a new business-capable runway at Clinton Memorial Airport include, center, MoDOT Director Dave Nichols (in tan jacket), Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Gregg Smith (with large scissors) and Aviation Programs Manager Liz Duvall. (Photo/Bob Edwards)

New runway (Photo/City of Clinton)

Clinton, who spoke at the event, praised the teamwork that made the project possible -- local officials and aviation supporters and MoDOT staffers.

Area Engineer Darin Hamelink of the Southwest District, who attended the dedication, said later: "A project like this is a very positive move for the City of Clinton. In a time when the economy is still struggling, the airport expansion will make Clinton more competitive and attractive to new and existing businesses. It takes a lot of planning and effort to make a project like this become a reality, and Clinton has put skin in the game by raising the matching funds required for this project."

MoDOT Director Dave Nichols told the gathering that Clinton should appeal to business people looking for a new location to build. The area is a good place to live, has a qualified workforce and now an upgraded airport.

Nichols also spoke about the challenge Missouri faces in funding needed transportation improvements.

He asked people to consider: “Do we want to take transportation to the next level and compete nationally for economic development opportunities in our state or do we just want to be average or on the decline?”

“I’m confident in the next few months we’re going to have a very good conversation about funding for transportation in the future so we can be competitive," he said.

For more info

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MoDOT, City of Cape Girardeau to Celebrate New Roundabout

Please join MoDOT and the City of Cape Girardeau to celebrate completion of the new roundabout in Cape Girardeau on Sept. 24. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. at the pedestrian/bike trail located on the corner of Lexington Avenue and Kingsway Drive.

Footage from KFVS12 shows cars navigating the new roundabout following its opening on Sept. 12.

The project included constructing a roundabout at the intersection of Route W/Lexington Avenue/Kingsway Drive to help meet the growing demands of traffic in Cape Girardeau and improve safety.

"The need for improvements at this intersection was identified through the public involvement process for Cape's Transportation Trust Fund program," said Resident Engineer Brian Holt.

Holt explained MoDOT continued to work with the city to find a solution to ease congestion in this location.

"Traffic counts did not show enough vehicles traveling through the area to require an additional signal, and the signal would be placed too close to a signal at the intersection of Lexington Avenue/Mount Auburn Road and Kingshighway," he said. "After evaluating options with the city, a roundabout was the most effective solution."

Holt added roundabouts also have fewer conflict points than traditional intersections and reduce delays by allowing traffic to flow more smoothly with fewer stops.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission awarded a $1,465,295 contract for construction of the roundabout to Fronabarger Concreters, Inc., in March 2013. In addition, the contract included construction of a turn lane at the intersection of Kingshighway and Lexington Avenue and capacity improvements on Lexington Avenue. This is a cost-share project, with the City of Cape Girardeau providing $793,000.

Congratulations to Brian Okenfuss

Named Area Engineer for the SE District's Northern Counties

Brian Okenfuss has been named the Southeast District's North Area Area Engineer. He will serve the counties of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Iron, Madison, Perry, St. Francois and Ste. Genevieve.

To make MoDOT accessible to the communities they serve, the department structured the role of the area engineer to include direct communication and interaction with each community. Area engineers answer questions from the public, meet with media and speak to groups and organizations about transportation in Missouri.

As a graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Okenfuss has worked at MoDOT since 2007. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and most recently he served as a Senior Construction Inspector in the Park Hill Project Office.

Area Engineer Brian Okenfuss

"I'm excited to meet with the communities I'll be serving," said Okenfuss. "I've lived in the area throughout my life and look forward to helping my neighbors with their transportation needs."

Coalition at SEMO District Fair

The Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety recently visited the SEMO District Fair and participated in the parade to help encourage safe driving habits.

SE District Kudos

Ms. Crossett wrote:

Highway 412 -- County Road 279 -- I reported the tall grass that needed mowing a few days ago and appreciate the state employees who are taking care of this. You can actually see oncoming traffic when pulling onto 412 so much better now. Thank you and thanks for this site to allow road concerns to be reported.

Mr. Davis called to say thank you:

Bill Davis called and wanted to show his appreciation for a great job well done to the Piedmont Shed. He lives on Highway 34 between Piedmont and Patterson. He said that MoDOT crews cut the high spots along the side of the road a few days ago. The same crew came back and cut the very steep bank by his home. He said that it looks great, and they did a wonderful job.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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